

Naples Music Club - Memorial Recital in Honor of Phyllis Warren

Moorings Presbyterian Church

November 14, 2010 – 3:00pm

My name is Priscilla Warren Grannis and Phyllis Warren was my Mom. I would like to thank each of you for coming this afternoon. I would also like to thank all of the performers, who have volunteered their time and talent for this special Memorial Recital. Special thanks to Moorings Presbyterian Church for allowing us to use this incredible sanctuary today, with extra special thanks to Dick Crofts. Finally, I would like to thank the Naples Music Club, with special kudos to Cathy Frecker, for organizing this memorial recital in memory of my Mom.

In preparing for this speech, I googled “musical studies” and “success.” I got 6.5 Million hits. I googled “benefits of musical studies” and got 5.6 Million hits. There are literally thousands of studies on these subjects – it’s overwhelming. However, in reading about 50 of the articles, one fact becomes very clear. Children who are exposed to musical studies – privately or in an ensemble – are statistically more successful as adults.

Success in society is predicated on success in school. Skills learned through the discipline of music transfer to study skills, communication skills and cognitive skills – all of which are part of the underlying foundation to becoming a successful adult.¹

¹ Source: MENC—The National Association for Music Education "Benefits of Music Education" Brochure, Spring 2002".

- Students in music performance or music appreciation achieved scores 57-63 points higher in the verbal portion of the SAT; and scored 41-44 points higher in the math portion of the SAT²
- Music participants received more academic honors and awards than non-music students³
- Music students received a higher percentage of As, As/Bs and Bs than non-participants⁴
- 66% of music majors in college were admitted to medical school – highest percentage of any group. Only 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.⁵

When asked to write the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson struggled to find the right words. He asked his wife to send him his violin. Jefferson's landlord later stated that he would hear Jefferson pacing, followed by music from his violin, followed by silence. After playing music, Jefferson was able to sit down and write the foundational doctrine for our government.⁶

Albert Einstein's parents were told that their son was stupid and incapable of learning. The teachers recommended that Einstein go to a workhouse. Sometime later, he began to study the violin. Years later, Einstein credited his genius to music. Whenever he would get stumped while working on a formula, the answer would come to him while

² *College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001.*

³ *NELS:88 First Follow-up, 1990, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington DC*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *As reported in "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, February 1994*

⁶ O'Donnell, Laurence. "Music and The Brain", published in *Music Power* 1999. Available <http://www.cerebromente.org.br/n15/mente/musica.html>

playing his violin.⁷ When asked about his theory of relativity, Albert Einstein stated, "It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception."⁸

As most of all of you know, the Naples Music Club Scholarship Program was near and dear to Phyllis. She chaired or co-chaired the scholarship competition for about 10 years. Phyllis was keenly interested in developing young musical talent – she was a piano teacher for more than 60 years. Early in her career, she recognized the correlation between a child’s musical studies and his or her success as an adult. Almost all of her piano students went on to earn a bachelor’s degree. Many of them went further and earned post-graduate degrees. Some became doctors, lawyers, ministers, bankers, nurses, or teachers. One is a jazz musician on Broadway. Some of them even became music teachers.

Many of the previous Naples Music Club Scholarship winners have gone on to become professional musicians. Oliver De Clercq is the principal horn player with the Vancouver Symphony. Blake Galler has performed on Broadway. Kimberly Archer is a freelance composer and music professor at the Southern Illinois University. Alden Gatt, a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music is teaching piano in New York City. Josh Hedley is a blues/country fiddle player in Nashville. Just to name a few.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Suzuki, Shinichi. (1969). *Nurtured by Love. A New Approach to [Education](#)*. Waltrud Suzuki, trans. New York: Exposition Press.

Your generosity provided these young musicians with the financial ability to develop their musical talents, which in turn, allowed them to grow into successful adults. We need your help again. Naples Music Club can provide the venue and the opportunities, but only you can provide the financial resources. Dig deep and invest in the future – our future and theirs. Who knows, you may be providing a musical opportunity for the next Thomas Jefferson or Albert Einstein.

Thank you.